

General Assistance

General Assistance is a cash payment supplemented by Medicaid, paid from State funds only, for categor

How to Apply:

You can apply for and receive your benefits online through [COMPASS](#) or from the County Department of Social Services, Food Stamps, help with c

- File an application at [your local County Assistance Office](#)
- Download an application form from the [Web Assistant Office](#) :
- [Application for Cash Assistance, Food Stamps and Medical Assistance Benefits](#) (English version)
- [Solicitud para recibir beneficios](#) (version espanola)

If you need help completing [Online Application Office](#) or staff can help you with more information about benefits, trained

The following information about the application process for a wide variety of DPW programs is from its w

[COMPASS](#) is a Web site that allows individuals and community based organizations access to screen

- Health Care Coverage
- Medical Assistance
- Medical Assistance for Worker's with Disabilities

- Medical Savings Program for Payment of Medical Assistance Premiums
- Children's Health Insurance Program
- adultBasic

- Food Stamp Benefits
- Cash Assistance
- Long Term Care
- Home and Community Based Services for individuals with mental retardation
- Consolidated Waiver for Individuals with Mental Retardation
- Person/Family-Directed Support Waiver for Individuals with Mental Retardation
- Mental Retardation Services (non-MA)

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Seasonal availability)
- Free or Reduced Price Meals School
- SelectPlan for Women (Family Planning Services)
- Child Care Works

COMPASS allows current recipients of Department of Public Welfare benefits to create secure, personal

- Health Care Benefit Package
- Food Stamp Benefit
- Cash Assistance Benefit
- SelectPlan for Women Benefit

COMPASS "Community Partner View" offers registered COMPASS Community Partners access to enhance

- the Power User application
 - Streamlines the application process
 - Decreases application processing time
 - Provides e-Signature functionality
-
- Application Management
 - Allows Users to initiate and track applications
 - Portfolio of submitted and suspended applications
 - Quick Reports
 - Printable Forms
-
- Individuals/families that can't get to the office during normal business hours can apply for or renew
 - Users have up to 30 days to complete the e-Form (application and renewal) process, and can log i
 - Although face-to-face interviews are still required for some programs, application or renewal proce
 - When a person hits the "Submit" button, the system seamlessly sends it to the appropriate state aq
 - COMPASS uses the latest technology to make the program easier for people with disabilities to us

Both English and Spanish versions are available, and ten other languages are used to indicate to non-E

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What are the benefits of COMPASS?

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When submitting a renewal electronically, users must remember to send or fax the signature page and a

Who is eligible to apply? Anyone with Internet access can use COMPASS, whether they are applying for
Who is eligible to use COMPASS? COMPASS is available to anyone with Internet access.
How can the user check the status of an application? COMPASS allows users to check the status of an applica
Will COMPASS tell me if I am eligible for benefits? COMPASS does not determine eligibility. Casework
What does "Renewal" mean? A renewal is a review of all eligibility factors that are used

Who is eligible to renew on COMPASS? Anyone who receives a "Renewal Notice" can use COMPASS to renew eligibility.
Can the user check the status of a renewal? The status of a renewal cannot be checked.

Secure, Private and Confidential The application process protects user information and identifies

What health and human services programs can be accessed through COMPASS? COMPASS is used for Medical Ass



Are You Eligible? To be eligible for Cash Assistance/TANF, certain requirements must be met. Co

- You must be a [United States citizen](#) and a resident of Pennsylvania. (Certain non-citizen
- You and your family members must provide Social Security Numbers or apply for one.
- You are required to seek employment or participate in an employment and training program. (Som
- You are required to agree to, sign and follow through on an Agreement of Mutual Responsibility, w
- If you are seeking Cash Assistance for a dependent child, you must agree to cooperate with patern
- Death of a parent;
- Incapacity of a parent;
- Continued absence of a parent; or
- Unemployment of one or both parents.

(Only the non-cooperating caretaker can be sanctioned for failure to cooperate with child support require

- Your resources (things with cash value such as bank accounts, bonds or property that is not your p

You must report all income from employment or from other sources including, but not limited to, child sup

How Long Can I Receive TANF? Generally, you can receive Cash Assistance for (five ye

SSI and Cash Assistance An individual who is disabled in a cash assistance family and receiving SSI from

Who is Eligible? To be eligible for General Assistance, you must be:

- Under age 18; or
- Between the ages of 18 and 20, attending school and expected to graduate before age 21; or
- Parents in a two-parent household with a child under age 13 (NOTE: General Assistance is provid
- Parents in a two-parent household with a child age 13 or over who is disabled (NOTE: General As
- Temporarily or permanently physically or mentally disabled preventing you from working in any gai
- Undergoing active treatment for substance abuse in an approved drug or alcohol program if the tre
- A victim of domestic violence (there is a nine-month lifetime limit for this category); or
- A pregnant woman who is not eligible for TANF; or

- An adult other than a relative who is caring for a child under age 13; or

Be caring for another person in the household who is ill or disabled, if there is no other adult in the house

What are the Amounts? Cash Assistance payments are determined by the state

Special Allowances for Supportive Services Items or services for cash and food stamp recipients need

NOTE: The CAO assesses eligibility for child care via CIS. If the individual is eligible, a system referral is

A SPAL is made only to the extent that the item or service is not available from another public source at

Generally, Special allowances for all supportive services will be
Appeal Rights: If applications are denied, reduced or terminated

The Director

Bureau of Hearings and Appeals Department of Public Welfare P.O. Box 2675

Harrisburg

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)